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# *Journal of Mycology*

VOLUME 13—JULY 1907

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## POLYPORUS PENNSYLVANICUS SP. NOV.

DAVID R. SUMSTINE.

Pileus orbicular, entire, convex to depressed, subumbilicate, 2-6 cm. broad, even, glabrous or with few scattered innate fibrils, pale ochraceous, tan-colored to isabelline, margin thin, acute, inflexed, with few fugacious cilia; context white, 1-10 mm. thick; tubes white, unequally hexagonal, irregular, angular, 0.5-1 mm. long, about 2 to a mm., varying in shape and size, dissepiments thin, edges becoming serrulate or fimbriate, decurrent; spores large, elliptic-fusoid, nucleate, hyaline; stipe central or sometimes somewhat excentric, 2-4 cm. long, 2-10 mm. thick, concolorous with the pileus or a little lighter, yellow tomentose, especially so at the base, solid, white within, increasing above and expanding into the pileus, sometimes the tubes are decurrent to the base of the stipe giving the stipe a lacerated or reticulated appearance.

The fresh plants emit a very perceptible nitrous odor.

Growing on fallen sticks, Fern Hollow, Allegheny County, Pennsylvania.

June 12, 1906. (Type.) Also collected at Sandy Creek, Allegheny County.

Type specimens are in the Herbarium of the Carnegie Museum, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

This plant is related to *P. polyporus*, *P. arcularius*, *P. elegans*, *P. lentus*. It is most closely related to *P. lentus* if published descriptions of this species are reliable. It seems, however, that *P. lentus* has not yet been found in America. *P.*

lentus is said to have a squamulose pileus and a thin and short stipe. This description is not applicable to my specimens. Twelve sporophores in different stages of development were collected and none of them appear squamulose. The pileus of an old weathered specimen of *P. lentus* may become smooth just as we find it to be the case in old specimens of *P. polyporus* and *P. arcularius*. All my specimens both old and young have a smooth pileus.

The following table may aid in distinguishing these related species:

Tubes regular or nearly so,	1.
Tubes irregular or hexagonal,	2.
1. Pileus villose, usually dark colored,	<i>P. polyporus</i> .
1. Pileus glabrous, ochraceous, stipe black at base,	<i>P. elegans</i> .
2. Pileus squamulose, grayish fuscous, pores large,	<i>P. arcularius</i> .
2. Pileus squamulose, ochraceous-pallid, pores large,	<i>P. lentus</i> .
2. Pileus glabrous or nearly so, tan-colored or isabelline, pores smaller,	<i>P. pennsylvanicus</i> .

Dr. W. A. Murrill kindly compared some of my specimens with material in the Herbarium of the New York Botanical Garden.

Wilkesburg, Pa.

## A STUDY OF THE LEAF-TIP BLIGHT OF *DRACAENA FRAGRANS*.

JOHN L. SHELDON.

Last winter, several diseased plants of *Dracaena fragrans* were noticed in the greenhouses of the West Virginia Experiment Station. Most of the lower leaves were dead and the middle ones were dead at the tips. There were small black specks scattered through the dead portions of the leaves, for the most part on the upper side. A microscopical examination showed that the leaves had probably been killed by a species of *Gloeosporium*.

After consulting the pathological literature in the station library, I decided that Dr. Halsted<sup>1</sup> had found the same disease some years before and had called it a "leaf-tip blight." He says in his description of it, "The fungus which was destroying the

<sup>1</sup> Halsted, B. D. Leaf-tip blight of *Dracaena fragrans*. Rept. N. J. Agr. Exp. Sta. 14:413. 1893.